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## Worldwide protests force court to admit bias

# FREE MUMIA

By Lallan Schoenstein

World famous political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal won an opportunity to reopen his case when a Philadelphia Common Pleas Court judge ruled on Dec. 27 that his appeal can be reargued before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. The appeal opens the possibility of a retrial where the racist frame-up of Mumia can be exposed.

Judge Leon Tucker found that “if a judge served as a prosecutor and then the judge, there is no separate analysis or determination required by the court, there is a finding of automatic bias and a due process violation.”

This ruling overturns a 2012 decision by Chief Justice Ronald D. Castille because of the racist bias he exhibited when acting as a prosecutor. Evidence includes racist campaign speeches and letters advocating the issuance of death warrants in cases where a police officer was killed. Despite a convincing body of evidence supporting Mumia’s claim of innocence, Castille’s ruling denied Mumia further appeals, condemning him to serve a life sentence without parole.

In the second part of Judge Tucker’s

ruling — made in a courtroom packed with police — Tucker said Abu-Jamal’s lawyers failed to present evidence that Castille had a significant personal involvement in a critical decision over Abu-Jamal’s case while Castille was district attorney. The judge did note that the evidence of Castille’s bias in Mumia’s case was missing because the state failed to produce two documents that it was obligated to preserve while Abu-Jamal’s appeals were active.

Mumia was on death row from 1981 until 2008, when a U.S. appeals court threw out the death sentence because of flawed jury instructions. The appeals court was forced to respond to the worldwide campaign for freedom for Mumia. Protests focused on the racist U.S. courts and prison system. As an internationally renowned political prisoner and journalist, Mumia had become “the voice of the voiceless” and a symbol of injustice in the U.S. prison system.

Journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal had served as local Black Panther Party minister of information and reported on racist Philadelphia police at-



Jan. 5 rally, protesters demand Philadelphia DA Krasner allow Mumia’s appeals to go forward.

SLL PHOTOS: SHARON BLACK

tacks — especially the attacks on the organization MOVE and the police bombing of the MOVE house in 1985, a terrorist act that killed 11 people and destroyed an entire block in West Philadelphia.

During four decades in prison, Mumia was celebrated for his writing on the U.S. system of injustice. He wrote about the racist bias he saw in the makeup of juries and the inequity of the number of people of color on death row. Despite his vulnerable position, Mumia has never flinched from protesting injustice wherever he has seen it, from Palestine to racist police brutality in the U.S. to President Trump’s murderous persecution of im/migrants.

In recent years, Mumia suffered a life-threatening illness from hepatitis C. After angry protests led by supporters like Pam Africa, he was granted the right to receive a curative treatment. In a well-known display of courage, he would not accept the lifesaving medicine until it became available for other prisoners too.

Now is the time to be in the street for Mumia. It is support for his courage that has kept his case in the forefront of the struggle against racism. It is possible now to build the kind of protests that will find resonance in the courts, to fight for justice that cannot be denied.

Stay tuned: [freemumia.com](http://freemumia.com)  
#FreeMumia

## Hundreds march against media whiteout as Video exposes murder by racist LAPD

By John Parker  
Los Angeles

At the CNN building in Hollywood, hundreds gathered Dec. 23 to condemn what they called the network’s “whiteout” of protests of police killings, including the weekly actions against Los Angeles District Attorney Jackie Lacey, who refuses to prosecute killer cops. The protest was called by Black Lives Matter Los Angeles.

According to an August 24 article in the [Guardian](http://www.theguardian.com), Los Angeles has “one of the country’s deadliest police systems.”

The Los Angeles Police Department has a long history of brutal and racist policing. It was telling that the rally and march were held in Hollywood, given the plethora of police dramas produced there glorifying the LAPD.

Protesters marched through Hollywood from CNN to a 24 Hour Fitness gym where Albert Ramon Dorsey, a Black man, was shot and killed by cops on Oct. 29.

There, a lawyer for Dorsey’s family explained that the LAPD killed an unarmed man who, after coming from the shower in the fitness center, was faced with police who did nothing but escalate the situation. The police were responding to a trespassing com-



Melina Abdullah of Black Lives Matter Los Angeles speaking.

plaint from a manager of the center.

According to the police, Dorsey was homeless and had a record of allegedly unprovoked and violent encounters with staff at the fitness center, which somehow justified his killing — what most people would call premeditated murder on the part of the cops.

We are expected to ignore these simple facts shown in the video: Dorsey was just taking a shower with no one around him and listening to his music. He was calm, noncombative and basically just ignoring the two cops who confronted him. When

told to leave, he continued to ignore them until they decided to put their hands on him and scream at him to stop “tensing up” while they bent his arm in ways that are unnatural and painful.

We’re also told to ignore the fact that all they had to do was wait and get a healthcare professional to talk him out of the facility.

And, finally, we’re told to ignore the fact that, miraculously, both cops’ body cameras fell off before the violence ending in death occurred. The primary justifications for the shooting are explained, not shown.

Dorsey died after being shot multiple times because he was a Black man who ignored the orders of police. Said the family’s lawyer: “He had not hurt anyone, there was no victim, there was no gun. He was just a naked man who was not following their commands. ...

Melina Abdullah of Black Lives Matter Los Angeles urged everyone to participate in a boycott of the 24 Hour Fitness facility, which sparked a loud and resonating chant of the word “Boycott!” that reverberated off the surrounding corporate office walls.

SLL PHOTOS: JOHN PARKER



# Puerto Ricans fight coal ash poison

## U.S. colonial government okays dumping waste

By Cheryl LaBash

Puerto Rico's environmental and health movement mobilized to stop legislation proposed by the U.S. colonial government that would eliminate restrictions on poisonous coal ash and profit the U.S. corporation AES. This clearly shows how the Puerto Rican government responds directly to U.S. interests and not to its people. It is no coincidence that this happens as the U.S.'s Environmental Protection Agency lowers the standards to benefit toxic corporations.

Alerted by militant activists in the municipality of Peñuelas, [www.primerahola.com](http://www.primerahola.com) reported, "Ricardo Roselló [the current governor of Puerto Rico], through the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, is preparing to allow the indiscriminate use of these wastes through the statute 'Standards for the Beneficial Use of Coal Combustion Residues,' which will be discussed this Thursday, Nov. 29 in public hearings," in Río Piedras.

On Dec. 12, demonstrators picketed the hearing in the capital of San Juan. Jimmy Borrero denounced the proposal from the audience. Borrero testified by video about the Peñuelas struggle at the International Tribunal



Activists demand an end to the dumping of toxic waste in Puerto Rico.

on U.S. Colonial Crimes in Puerto Rico held in New York City on Oct. 27, 2018.

On Dec. 20, [Centro Periodismo Investigativo](http://CentroPeriodismoInvestigativo) reports: "While in the Dominican Republic there is a debate over the number of people who must be compensated after breathing and swallowing — for years — AES coal ashes at Arroyo Barril, in Puerto Rico the government is presenting a regulation that perpetuates the toxic waste on the island."

As was shown at the International Tribunal in New York, turning Caribbean islands into toxic dumps for U.S. corporations has met strong resistance. The Peñuelas activists stopped the dumping there and are determined to stop this new move to make

it legal. Cancer, birth defects, and toxicity that poisons the soil, water and plants with heavy metals are well proven and not denied.

These facts are well known in Puerto Rico, but AES environmental racism is ignored by the U.S. media.

The [AES website](http://AES website) boasts: "The AES Corporation (NYSE: AES) is a Fortune 500 global power company. We provide affordable, sustainable energy to 15 countries through our diverse portfolio of distribution businesses as well as thermal and renewable generation facilities. Our workforce is committed to operational excellence and meeting the world's changing power needs. Our 2017 revenues were \$11 billion and we own and manage \$33 billion in total assets." Its headquarters is in Arlington, Va. The company's official slogan is "The Power of Being Global."

The deadly falsehood of so-called clean coal is, for workers, gruesomely demonstrated in the Arroyo Barril report by Centro Periodismo Investigativo cited above. Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic have ample sunshine and wind to generate power. Coal plants only benefit the corporate bottom line. [@](#)

# The Kurds, Turkey and U.S. in Syria

By Scott Scheffer

Donald Trump's recent announcement that he is withdrawing 2,000 troops from Syria and half of the 14,000 troops currently in Afghanistan has opened a fissure in the imperialist ruling class.

Secretary of Defense Gen. James "Mad Dog" Mattis resigned over the issue. Brett McGurk, the presidential special envoy for the global coalition to counter ISIS, also resigned.

To a lesser or greater degree, all the major media and a significant portion of the political establishment have been calling Trump's plan an abandonment of U.S. allies and a surrender to the Syrian Arab Army.

The allies that they are referring to are not only the armies of other countries and the mercenaries that they've hired. They are also referring to the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), at the center of which is the People's Protection Units (YPG) — the primarily Kurdish fighters that have been one of the main U.S. proxies in the war to overthrow the elected Syrian government.

Trump's erratic presidency has frayed the nerves of many in the ruling class, but the military seemed to have been more comfortable with him.

After all, he stacked his administration with military figures. And within a couple of months of moving into the White House, he fired Tomahawk missiles at Syria and dropped the largest non-nuclear weapon in existence in Afghanistan, as if to prove his imperialist warmaker chops.

### ISIS a cover for U.S. intervention

The stated reason for the multiple ongoing U.S. wars in the Middle East and Africa is to fight the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, popularly known as ISIS, which had taken over huge portions of the Middle East. But even as the U.S. coalesced with other countries' armies to drive ISIS out of the areas they'd taken over, the U.S. military at times aided ISIS's operations. The war against ISIS has been a convenient cover for Washington's real goal of destroying Syria.

The use of the YPG as a proxy army has been a balancing act in Washington's relationship with fellow NATO member Turkey. The Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in Turkey has been fighting against the Turkish regime for self-determination since the 1980s and has faced brutal repression, assassinations, massacres and prison sentences in that struggle. Turkey says that the YPG in Syria

is an extension of the PKK in Turkey.

The U.S., Turkey and the European Union all consider the PKK a terrorist organization, but, in order to justify using the YPG against Syria, Washington distinguishes between the PKK and the YPG.

Struggle-La Lucha recently published a 1991 article by Marxist leader Sam Marcy in which he wrote about the first attempt at a Kurdish state that came about in 1945 in northern Iran when the strength of the Soviet Union emboldened revolutionary movements in Asia and throughout the world.

"The Kurdish Republic of Mahabad existed from December 1945 to December 1946 in the northern part of Iran. ... What happened to it?" asked Marcy. "The Truman administration, in collaboration with the British, gave notice to the Soviet Union that its troops had to evacuate Iran. It was one of the first salvos of the Cold War. After their withdrawal, the Shah, armed by U.S. imperialism, opened a military struggle to destroy the Kurdish republic."

The Kurdish people have been used and betrayed by imperialist forces in the past. Trump's plan to throw the Kurdish fighters under the bus again should come as no shock. [@](#)

# STOP the U.S. Base in Okinawa

By Stephen Millies

Thirty people braved the cold wind in front of the Japanese Consulate on New York City's swanky Park Avenue Dec. 18 to protest the building of a new U.S. military base on Okinawa. People from Okinawa were joined by U.S. supporters, including members of the Granny Peace Brigade and Veterans for Peace.

The 466-square-mile island of 1.4 million people already hosts 19,000

U.S. Marines as well as the largest U.S. Air Force base in the Asia-Pacific.

All these forces are aimed at the People's Republic of China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. They are a tripwire for World War III.

Protesters were also concerned about the ecological damage caused by the base construction, which was scheduled to begin on Dec. 14.

[Read more.](#)

## LABOR

### Federal shutdown

## No back pay for contract workers

Twenty-five percent of the federal government — from the National Park Service to the Justice Department — is shut down over a racist border wall. Hundreds of thousands of federal workers are being forced to work without pay or go on furlough. While they are expecting to get paid when the shutdown ends, try telling that to your landlord.

For contract workers, it's even worse. Maintenance, security and foodservice workers staff the entrances and cafeterias of federal buildings. They are paid at or around minimum wage by the companies that contract with the government to provide these services. Like federal workers, hourly workers for contractors do not collect their pay during shutdowns; unlike federal workers, however, they do not get back pay when the shutdown ends.



### Teachers

## Strikes expected in 2019

The new year promises new teacher strikes in the United States, as teachers are already preparing for more struggles for better working conditions.

In the United States, 2018 was marked by teacher strikes. The number of educators walking out of classrooms to demand better salaries, smaller class sizes and the increase of funding, has never been seen before.

Around 31,000 educators in the Los Angeles school district — the second biggest one in the country, are preparing a walk-out for January 10. This would be the first strike in the Los Angeles school district in more than 30 years.

[Read more at Telesur.](#)

### Amazon warehouse workers

## 'We are not robots'

As Amazon's workforce has more than doubled over the past three years, workers at Amazon warehouses have started organizing a union to fight back. Amazon's global workforce reached more than 613,000 employees worldwide, not including the 100,000 temporary employees the company hired for the holiday season.

Just a few months after Amazon opened its first New York-based fulfillment center in Staten Island, workers announced on 12 December the launch of a union push with help from the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union.

[Read more at the Guardian.](#) [@](#)



PHOTO: STEVE MILLIES



## IN CHILE

## Mapuche resistance intensifies after police killing

By M. Tiahui

The November assassination of a young Mapuche man, Camilo Catrillanca, by a Chilean anti-terrorism police squad has intensified the centuries-old Mapuche Indigenous struggle and has brought thousands of Mapuche and Chilean allies out into the streets in protest.

The killing of 24-year-old Catrillanca on Nov. 14 is the latest flash point in the struggle over Mapuche ancestral lands, which has led leaders in Chile to treat some Indigenous land rights activists as terrorists — by, for example, charging and trying them under anti-terrorism laws.

Catrillanca, the grandson of a prominent Mapuche leader, was shot in the head while riding a tractor home after working in the fields near the town of Ercilla, in the Araucanía region. His death led to ongoing protests across the country.

The anti-terrorism “Jungle Commando” squad that shot Catrillanca erased the video recording of what happened. Initially, the Chilean authorities tried to limit the blame for the assassination, but Mapuche people and their supporters were clear that blame and corruption are widespread and that this is part of an ongoing militarized campaign against Mapuche resistance.

Chile’s right-wing president, Sebastián Piñera, has been forced by public outrage to ask multiple national police officials to resign. The

Piñera government has been using anti-terrorism laws in existence since the Pinochet dictatorship as a cover to increase militarized force against the Mapuche.

## Loss of Wallmapu homelands

The Mapuche comprise about 12 percent of the population in Chile and are the largest Indigenous nation there among nine recognized in the country.

Since the 1500s, when Spanish colonists first arrived in Wallmapu (traditional Mapuche territory located in Araucanía in Chile and Patagonia in Argentina), Mapuche have been defending their territory. Those early European invaders were never able to prevail, and, after the War of Independence from Spain, neither could the Chilean state, so it reached an agreement, recognizing the land south of the Bío-Bío River in south central Chile as Mapuche territory.

In the late 1800s, Chile began an expansion that continues to this day, sending in the army to clear the way for white settlers and pushing the Mapuche off much of their land in Araucanía. After Chile’s “pacification” campaign ended, the Mapuche were placed on “reducciones” (reservations) similar to what Indigenous people endured in Canada and the U.S. Wallmapu was split by the Chilean and Argentinian borders, dividing the Mapuche into virtual captive nations within two colonizing countries.

Over the last century, the Mapuche



Mapuche people protest the murder of Camilo Catrillanca



che have lost a large portion of their ancestral territory. Conditions improved somewhat for them during the brief presidency of Salvador Allende and other presidents who engaged in some land reform efforts. But largely, the inherent rights of the Mapuche to their homelands — different in nature from the rights of campesino farmers — were not fully understood by governments or non-Indigenous social movements.

Under the Pinochet dictatorship of 1973-1990, the Mapuche land base was reduced from 10 million hectares (25 million acres) to under 400,000 hectares (a million acres), according to some estimates. Pinochet targeted Mapuche resisters and labeled them as terrorists for refusing to give up. The military dictatorship pur-

sued policies that divided Indigenous communities, took control of lands for which the Mapuche did not have formal property titles, and encouraged the sale of the lands to large-scale farmers, lumber and energy companies, and other private owners.

Current President Piñera and his cronies plan major development of Araucanía that focuses on tourism and destructive corporate agriculture, forestry and energy projects that will intensify the devastating environmental losses already occurring. This will further displace and impoverish the Mapuche while creating profits for foreign and domestic capitalists.

Water is also a factor. Water in Chile is privatized and can be in short supply due to the huge amounts of water used by mining, commercial forestry, and other development. Araucanía has huge water reserves that are siphoned away to be squandered on these projects.

[Read more at Mapuche resistance.](#)

## Stock market decline worst since 1930s

By Gary Wilson

The Wall Street stock market closed December 21 with its worst weekly drop in more than seven years. The fall continued on December 24, losing more than 650 points.

This was the worst December for stocks since the 1930s.

## Looking behind the curtain

What happens in the stock market reflects the conditions of capitalist production. The mysterious gyrations up and down may appear to be like a disappearing act in a Las Vegas magic show, but they represent the anticipated direction of the economy. And a fall in the stock market can have wide repercussions.

The losses in a stock market down-

turn directly hit millions of workers and middle-class people through the loss of their savings, pensions and other retirement funds, insurance funds and other institutions, all of which are invested in the stock market.

## Engels on the stock exchange

What is the role of the stock market? As long ago as 1895, Frederick Engels, in supplementary notes updating Volume 3 of Capital, said:

“[The stock exchange] tends to concentrate all production, industrial as well as agricultural, and all commerce, the means of communication as well as the functions of exchange, in the hands of stock exchange operators, so that the stock exchange becomes the most prominent representative of capitalist production itself.”

Engels also noted the relation of foreign investment to the stock exchange:

“Now all foreign investments [are] in the form of shares. ... [Colonization] is purely a subsidiary of the stock exchange, in whose interests the European powers divided Africa a few years ago, and the French conquered Tunis and Tonkin. Africa [was] leased directly to companies (Niger, South Africa, German South-West and German East Africa), and Mashonaland and Natal [were] seized by [Cecil] Rhodes for the stock exchange.”

The stock exchange is the concentration of all industry, agriculture, commerce and the means of production into the hands of stock exchange operators, that is, the financial industry. That includes not just the Wall Street brokerages and hedge

funds, but also the heads of the biggest banks — particularly the central banks such as the Federal Reserve. Of course, not every stock market plunge results in a capitalist economic crisis.

## Crisis of overproduction

Left out of most reports on the stock market is the so-called trade war against China and the tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump — as though they were unrelated.

On the steel and aluminum import tariffs, the root cause of the problem is being ignored. That problem, according to an article in Forbes, is global metal overproduction.

The tariffs have meant higher car prices and the auto industry predicts the result will be two million fewer cars sold annually. That’s around 10 percent of the market. That’s overproduction.

China’s soybean imports from the United States dropped to zero in November, a result of the U.S. trade war, leaving U.S. agribusiness with a massive “oversupply.”

Overproduction is the outgrowth of capitalist production, notwithstanding all the research, the sophisticated data, computerization and digital communications at the disposal of the capitalists — important potential tools for planning.

Anarchy reigns in capitalist production, as Engels explained in “Socialism: Utopian and Scientific,” because:

“No one knows how much of his particular article is coming on the market, nor how much of it will be wanted. No one knows whether his

individual product will meet an actual demand, whether he will be able to make good his cost of production or even to sell his commodity at all.”

This “crisis of overproduction” is the defining feature of a capitalist crisis, according to Marx. Unemployment rises as workplaces are shut down. People go hungry while food sits unsold in warehouses or rots in the fields. Homes stand empty although millions lack an affordable place to live.

Profit is the motor-force of capitalist production. The capitalists must always expand production and dominate their market. Expand or die is the law of the marketplace. It is the competition for the market that continually drives expansion to the point of overproduction.

## Falling rate of profit

Because capitalists are under constant pressure to invest in ever-greater amounts of machinery and equipment, computers and robots, there is a long-term tendency for the rate of profit to fall. The reason for this is that labor is the source of the surplus value that capitalists keep as profit. The rising proportion of machinery, including computerization, replacing workers creates a downward pressure on the rate of profit over the long run.

That doesn’t mean that capitalism will collapse on its own as profit rates fall. Marx pointed out that capitalist crises actually clear the way for a revival of growth by bankrupting unproductive capitalists and devaluing capital in general. [Read more](#)

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# Puertorriqueños combaten tóxicas cenizas de carbón

## Gobierno de colonia de EU aprueba su depósito

Por Cheryl LaBash

El movimiento ambientalista y por la salud puertorriqueño se ha movilizado para frenar la legislación propuesta por el gobierno de la colonia estadounidense que eliminaría las restricciones a las tóxicas cenizas de carbón y por ende, a las ganancias de la compañía estadounidense AES. Esto claramente demuestra cómo la respuesta del gobierno puertorriqueño responde directamente a los intereses de los EU y no a los de su pueblo. No es una coincidencia que esto suceda a la misma vez que la Agencia de Protección Ambiental de los Estados Unidos baja sus normas para beneficiar a las corporaciones tóxicas.

Alertado por activistas militantes del municipio de Peñuelas, [www.primerahola.com](http://www.primerahola.com) reportó, “Ricardo Roselló [el gobernador actual de Puerto Rico], A través del Departamento de Recursos Naturales y Ambientales, se está preparando para permitir el uso

indiscriminado de estos residuos a través del estatuto ‘Normas para el uso beneficioso de residuos de combustión de carbón,’ que serán ‘discutidas este Jueves, 29 Noviembre en una audiencia pública’ en Río Piedras.

El 12 de diciembre, manifestantes piquetearon la audiencia en la capital, San Juan. Jimmy Borrero denunció la propuesta desde el público asistente. Borrero testificó por vídeo acerca de la lucha en Peñuelas en el Tribunal Internacional sobre Crímenes Coloniales de los Estados Unidos en Puerto Rico, en la ciudad de Nueva York el 27 de octubre de 2018.

El 20 de dic., el Centro de Periodismo Investigativo reportó: “Mientras que en la República Dominicana hay un debate sobre el número de personas que tienen que ser compensadas después de inhalar o ingerir — por años — las cenizas de carbón de la AES en Arroyo Barril, en Puerto Rico el gobierno pre-

senta un reglamento que perpetúa los residuos tóxicos en la isla”.

Como se mostró en el Tribunal Internacional de Nueva York, el convertir las islas del Caribe en vertederos tóxicos para las compañías de los EU ha sido recibida con fuerte resistencia. Lxs activistas de Peñuelas detuvieron el depósito allí y están decididos a detener esta nueva maniobra que intenta hacerlo legal. El cáncer, los defectos congénitos y la toxicidad que envenena el suelo, el agua y las plantas con metales pesados están bien probados y no se disputan.

Estos hechos son bien conocidos en Puerto Rico, pero el racismo ambiental de la AES es ignorado por la prensa estadounidense.

El sitio web de la AES alardea de que: “La compañía AES (NYSE: AES) es una compañía de energía global del Fortune 500. Proporcionamos energía asequible y sostenible a 15 países a

través de nuestro portafolio diverso de negocios de distribución así como de instalaciones de generación térmica y renovable. Nuestra fuerza laboral esta comprometida a operar con excelencia y a satisfacer las cambiantes necesidades de energía del mundo. Nuestros ingresos en 2017 fueron de \$ 11 mil millones y ahora poseemos y manejamos un total de \$33 mil millones en activos.” Su sede está en Arlington, Virginia. El lema oficial de la compañía es “El poder de ser global”.

La falsedad mortífera del llamado carbón limpio ha quedado horriblemente demostrado a lxs trabajadores en el reporte antes citado sobre Arroyo Barril por el Centro de Periodismo Investigativo. Puerto Rico y la República Dominicana tienen suficiente sol y viento para generar energía. Las plantas de carbón solo benefician a los intereses corporativos. [🔗](#)

GRAPHIC: SAMUEL MARRERO DUBROC

# Socialistas en los Estados Unidos saludan los 60 años de la REVOLUCIÓN CUBANA

## Socialists in the U.S. salute 60 years of the Cuban Revolution



En el aniversario 60 del triunfo de la gran Revolución Cubana, liderada por el Comandante Fidel Castro, Struggle for Socialism ★ La Lucha por el Socialismo manda cálidos saludos y felicitaciones al pueblo de Cuba, al gobierno revolucionario y al Partido Comunista de Cuba.

¡Cuántas victorias gloriosas y reveses trágicos han experimentado lxs trabajadores del mundo en estas últimas seis décadas! Pero en medio de todo, Cuba revolucionaria ha sido una luz — dinámica, vibrante, inspiradora — para lxs trabajadores y oprimidos por todos lados, desde Venezuela y África del Sur, hasta Palestina y los Estados Unidos. Cuba demuestra lo que el Socialismo puede lograr, incluso bajo condiciones muy difíciles, cuando está conducido por un liderazgo revolucionario, un espíritu luchador y la unidad de las masas.

Sería imposible nombrar todos los logros de la Revolución. Pero para aquellos que luchan aquí en el vientre de la bestia, algunos sobresalen. Tomemos por ejemplo, la lucha interminable de lxs pobres y lxs trabajadores en los Estados Unidos para financiar una adecuada atención de salud, educación y vivienda. En Cuba, estas necesidades humanas esenciales son el derecho de todxs, y el mundo reconoce el liderazgo de Cuba en estos campos más allá de países mucho más grandes y ricos. Nada encarna el compromiso de la Revolución con el pueblo como sus continuos avances en la salud materna y la reducción de la mortalidad infantil.

Honramos el compromiso de Cuba al internacionalismo, desde las misiones heroicas de las guerrillas montadas por el Che y sus compatriotas, hasta el rol de los voluntarios cubanos que ayudaron al triunfo de las fuerzas de liberación de África en la Batalla de Cuito Cuanavale. Y por supuesto, lxs más de 10 mil médicos cubanos y trabajadores de salud que continúan dando asistencia vital a personas de todo el mundo.

Y hablando de eso — recordamos con gratitud la oferta de Cuba de proveer trabajadorxs de salud a las víctimas del huracán Katrina in 2005, oferta que fue rechazada por la administración criminal de George Bush quien abandonó a

miles de familias de clase obrera negras, latinas y blancas, dejándolas sufrir y morir. Apreciamos el prolongado compromiso de Cuba a entrenar doctores de comunidades oprimidas y de bajos ingresos en los Estados Unidos en la Escuela Latinoamericana de Medicina.

Recordamos también como Cuba ha provisto santuario a activistas y revolucionarios perseguidxs de los Estados Unidos — desde Robert F. Williams hasta Huey P. Newton, y por supuesto a nuestra querida compañera Assata Shakur, a quien Fidel le dio asilo en 1984 y quien permanece a salvo hoy de las garras de policías y prisiones racistas estadounidenses.

Cuba demuestra cómo el Socialismo es el sistema que puede reparar las injusticias históricas arraigadas en el capitalismo y las anteriores sociedades de clases. En Cuba, las mujeres ahora componen más de la mitad de la Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular. Los derechos de lxs afrocubanos son protegidos y respetados y la comunidad gay, lesbiana, bisexual y trans ha avanzado grandes pasos.

También sabemos que lxs obreros y revolucionarios en los Estados Unidos tienen una responsabilidad especial de luchar en defensa de Cuba. Desde la invasión de Playa Girón en 1961 y las seis largas décadas criminales del bloqueo, hasta los movimientos de Trump para reintroducir restricciones a los viajes, el imperialismo estadounidense — bajo ambas administraciones republicanas y demócratas — han tratado de socavar o destruir completamente al pueblo que se atrevió a hacer una revolución socialista a 90 millas de sus costas.

El que hayan fracasado una y otra vez, es testimonio de la continua vitalidad de la Revolución Cubana y la lealtad y determinación que inspira en lxs pueblos progresistas en todo el globo.

Nos comprometemos a continuar nuestros esfuerzos en 2019 para exigir el fin del bloqueo criminal de los Estados Unidos hacia Cuba y a que regresen Guantánamo al pueblo cubano.

¡Viva el pueblo cubano!  
¡Hasta la victoria siempre!  
Struggle for Socialism ★ La Lucha por el Socialismo  
1 de enero de 2019

On the 60th anniversary of the triumph of the great Cuban Revolution, led by Comandante Fidel Castro, Struggle for Socialism ★ La Lucha por el Socialismo sends warm greetings and congratulations to the Cuban people, the revolutionary government and the Cuban Communist Party.

What glorious victories and tragic setbacks the workers of the world have experienced through these last six decades! But through it all, revolutionary Cuba has been a beacon — dynamic, vibrant, inspiring — for the workers and oppressed everywhere, from Venezuela to South Africa to Palestine to the United States. Cuba shows what socialism can achieve, even under the most difficult conditions, when it’s imbued with revolutionary leadership, fighting spirit and unity of the masses.

It would be impossible to list all the accomplishments of the Revolution. For those struggling here in the belly of the beast, a few stand out. Take, for example, the neverending fight of poor and working people in the U.S. to fund adequate health care, education and housing. In Cuba, these essential human needs are the rights of all, and the world acknowledges Cuba’s leadership in these fields beyond much larger and richer countries. Nothing so embodies the Revolution’s commitment to the people as its continuing strides in maternal health and reducing infant mortality.

We honor Cuba’s commitment to internationalism, from the heroic guerrilla missions mounted by el Che and his compatriots to the role of Cuban volunteers in aiding the triumph of African liberation forces at the Battle of Cuito Cuanavale. And, of course, the tens of thousands of Cuban doctors and health care workers who continue to provide vital assistance to people around the world.

Speaking of that — we recall with gratitude Cuba’s offer to provide health care workers to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, an offer that was rebuffed by the criminal George

W. Bush administration, which abandoned thousands of Black, Brown and white working-class families to suffer and die. We cherish Cuba’s longstanding commitment to train doctors from oppressed and low-income U.S. communities at the Latin American School of Medicine.

We remember, too, how Cuba has provided sanctuary for persecuted activists and revolutionaries from the U.S. — from Robert F. Williams to Huey P. Newton, and, of course, our beloved comrade Assata Shakur, who was granted asylum by Fidel in 1984 and remains safe today from the clutches of racist cops and prisons.

Cuba demonstrates how socialism is the system that can redress the historic injustices rooted in capitalism and earlier class societies. In Cuba, women now make up more than half of the National Popular Assembly. The rights of Afro-Cubans are protected and respected, and the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans community has made enormous strides.

We also know that workers and revolutionaries in the U.S. carry a special responsibility to fight in defense of Cuba. From the attempted invasion of Playa Girón in 1961, to the six-decades-long criminal blockade, to Trump’s moves to reintroduce restrictions on travel, U.S. imperialism — under both Republican and Democratic administrations — has sought to undermine or outright destroy the people that dared to make a socialist revolution 90 miles from its shores.

That they have failed, time and again, is testimony to the continuing vitality of the Cuban Revolution and the loyalty and determination it inspires in progressive people around the globe.

We pledge to continue our efforts in 2019 to demand an end to the criminal U.S. blockade of Cuba and to return Guantánamo to the Cuban people.

¡Viva el pueblo cubano!  
¡Hasta la victoria siempre!  
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January 1, 2019

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